

Message Text

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11

ACTION NEA-16

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SWF-02 SCS-03 AID-20 CIAE-00 DODE-00

HEW-08 INR-11 NSAE-00 PA-04 PRS-01 RSC-01 SCA-01

USIA-15 IO-14 EUR-25 AGR-20 DRC-01 SS-20 NSC-07 /170 W

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P 170415Z AUG 74

FM AMEMBASSY DACCA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 3987

AMEMBASSY ISLAMABAD

C O N F I D E N T I A L DACCA 3688

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: EAID, BG

SUBJECT: BANGLADESH FLOODS AND PAK RICE

REF: STATE 179791

1. WE UNDERSTAND THAT BRITISH HIGH COMMISSION IN ISLAMABAD RAISED POSSIBLE PAK RICE DONATION WITH ADDITIONAL FOREIGN SECRETARY ABOUT A WEEK AGO AND THAT HE EXPRESSED INTEREST IN THE SUGGESTION. EMBASSY ISLAMABAD MAY WISH TO QUERY BRITISH COLLEAGUES WHERE THE IDEA STANDS.

2. WHILE WE CANNOT PREDICT WITH CERTAINTY WHAT BDG'S REACTION WOULD BE TO PAKISTANI OFFER OF RICE, BENGALIEE ATTITUDE MAY WELL BE HIGHLY AMBIGUOUS. ALREADY UNHAPPY WITH FRIENDLY REJK CEPTION GIVEN BHUTTO DURING JUNE VISIT, BDG MIGHT CONSIDER THAT SUCH A GIFT WOULD BOTH PROVIDE AMMUNITION FOR MUJIB'S DOMESTIC CRITICS AND GIVE BHUTTO A PROPAGANDA WINDFALL. FACT THAT PAKISTAN COULD SPARE RICE FOR BANGLADESH WOULD FUEL WIDESPREAD LOCAL CRITICISM OF BDG'S MISMANAGEMENT OF ECONOMY AND FURTHER REINFORCE PUBLIC RECOLLECTION OF THE BETTER (I.E., PAKISTANI) DAYS BEFORE INDEPENDENCE. ALWAYS SUSPICIOUS OF BHUTTO, BDG MIGHT FEAR THAT PAKISTANIS, TO MUJIB'S EMBARRASSMENT, WILL PLAY UP FACT THAT THEY HAD TO COME TO RESCUE OF THEIR ERSTWHILE BRETHREN.

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
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Draft Date: 17 AUG 1974
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
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